



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

ROBERT J. BARHAM
SECRETARY

January 31, 2014

Mr. Bobby Johnson
J & C Marine, LLC
2999 Hwy. 448
Greensburg, LA 70441

RE: **Scenic River Permit Application #889**
Amite River

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Personnel of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Scenic Rivers Program have reviewed the permit application you submitted for the proposed mining of gravel in St. Helena Parish on the Amite River, a Louisiana designated Natural and Scenic River. The Scenic River Permit is denied for the following reasons:

1. In the location of the proposed gravel operation the Amite River channel has migrated considerably over time. As a matter of fact, as recently as 2009 the proposed mining site, currently located on the left-descending bank, was located on the opposite bank of the river. This change in the river's course indicates lateral instability in the river at the proposed location. The Department believes that if gravel mining is conducted at the proposed site there exists the potential for the river to breach the earthen levee and flow into the mining site, thus adversely affecting the Amite River. Therefore, in order for the Department to reconsider the proposed gravel operation the applicant must demonstrate, using available expertise in engineering, geomorphology, hydrology, geology, soils, etc., that the mining activity will not directly and significantly degrade the ecological integrity, wilderness qualities and scenic beauties of the Amite River and its riparian corridor.
2. Aerial photography demonstrates that the site of the proposed gravel operation is periodically inundated by floodwaters. Gravel mining activities must be confined to areas that do not flood.
3. The proposed excavation within the floodplain of the Amite River has the potential to release substantial amounts of free sediments into the river during high flow events. These released sediments can adversely affect stream ecology and aquatic habitats by

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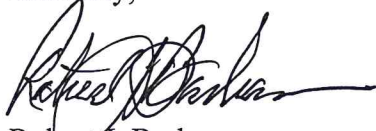
covering existing sand and/or gravel beds beyond the footprint of the immediate activity. Downstream transport and deposition of sediments directly and negatively affect benthic invertebrates and mussel communities. Fish communities dependent on invertebrates as a food source are thus impacted by sediment deposition, and are further impacted by increased turbidity caused by the release of fine sediments into the stream system. These habitat disruptions can result in an overall reduction in biological diversity, abundance and production.

4. The location of the proposed activity makes it unlikely, based on what has been submitted and observed during multiple field investigations, that impacts to the wilderness qualities, scenic values and aesthetic values of the Amite River could be minimized.

If you believe that your proposed activities can be modified in a way that greatly limits or eliminates these potential impacts to the Amite River we invite you to submit a new Scenic Rivers Permit application that includes any such modifications and appropriate information.

If you have any questions or if we can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact Scenic Rivers Coordinator Keith Cascio at 318-343-4045.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Barham", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert J. Barham
Administrator

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